

Bill Phelan, Suburban Journals

As part of Missouri's Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan, a five-year road and bridge construction schedule details various projects earmarked for state and federal funding. That list, called the 2008-2012 Highway and Bridge Construction Schedule, includes numerous projects in Jefferson County totaling more than \$38 million.

Made public last week, the schedule also includes more than \$17 million for Route MM, which is welcome news to members of the Route MM/W Task Force, a local highway safety group.

"This is what we've been looking forward to," Task Force Chairman Conrad Smith said. "We were planning on (those improvements) but I didn't know we had the money for it. This will give us five or six years of safety before we start building the new highway." Smith, of Dittmer, said the large sum earmarked for Route MM is a clear indication that the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

"MoDOT is listening," he said. "And some of that money came from Congressman Russ Carnahan as well."

Specific projects, their estimated costs and the year the contract is scheduled to be awarded are as follows. (Estimates include right of way acquisition, engineering and incidental costs.)

Route 110: Rehab three bridges at routes 67 and E, and Route W at the Big River: \$4,150,000 - 2009/2010

Route 21: Treat pavement and improve shoulders on three disconnected sections from south of Route M to Old Route M and from Schenk Road to the new bridge; and reconstruct southbound shoulders at the Route 21 off ramp and from Lake Lorraine to Route A: \$918,000 - 2008

Overlay bridge deck over the Meramec River: \$2,277,000 - 2009

Replace the bridge deck and make substructure repairs to bridge over Sandy Creek: \$605,000 - 2008

Route 30: Add left-turn lanes for east and westbound traffic, extend box culverts, upgrade signals and lighting at Little Brennan Road: \$1,768,000 - 2008

Repair east and westbound deck and resurface bridge over Saline Creek: \$1,393,000 - 2009

Rehab bridge deck over Heads Creek: \$829,000 - 2010

Resurface roadway and make improvements from the Franklin County line to the four-lane

section of Route B and add a left-turn lane at Route Y: \$4,556,000 - 2009

Interstate 55 and outer roads: Replace the bridge, add left turn lane and improve shoulders at West Outer Road over Rock Creek: \$1,814,000 - 2008

Paint structural steel, seal abutment beam cap and vertical face of backwall on north and southbound bridges over the Meramec River: \$369,000 - 2009

Treat pavement from Route M to the Ste. Genevieve County line: \$5,277,000 - 2009

Install median guard cable from Route 61 to Route M: \$1,397,000 - 2008

Route 61: Add dual left-turn lane from eastbound Route 61/67 to westbound Richardson Road and dual right-turn lane from eastbound Richardson to southbound 61/67: \$1,025,000 - 2008

Resurface and make roadway improvements from I-55 at Airport Road to Route 00 in Ste. Genevieve County: \$6,844,000 - 2009

Bridge improvements over Joachim Creek: \$512,000 - 2010

Install signal interconnects at Route 61/67 from north of Meramec River to Route 231, I-55 at Richardson Road interchange, I-55 at Imperial Main, and I-55 from Route 61/67 to Windsor Harbor: \$1,845,000 - 2008

Route A: Rehab three bridges, lengthen eastbound right-turn lanes, minor shoulder replacement and provide lighting from just west of Route P to just east of Route P: \$2,282,000 - 2008

Rehab pavement from Collins Road to Route 21: \$667,000 - 2008

Route BB: Replace various box culverts from east of Route 30 to west of Route 21: \$1,731,000 - 2008

Realign the roadway at Olde Baker School Lane: \$710,000 - 2008

Rehab bridge over Sandy Creek south of Regina Road: \$378,000 - 2008

Route MM: Improve alignment, shoulders, turn lane additions, install guardrails, drainage and signage from east of Geerdes Road to west of Miller Road and east of Sycamore Springs to west of Buckeye Valley Road: \$17,700,000 - 2008/2009

Route N: Treat pavement, curb and gutter improvements from Route 21 to Thomas Street and from Thomas Street to Donnelly Street: \$2,305,000 - 2009

Route P: Replace box culverts at various locations: \$1,110,000 - 2009

Route WW: Replace bridges over Ditch Creek and Maupin Creek: \$3,687,000 - 2010

State transportation officials point out that while the Highway and Bridge Construction Schedule is a "commitment," several factors could affect the actual construction of each project. Those factors include the assumption that levels of state and federal funding will be reached; that environmental requirements and clearances will be obtained; that all legal matters (if any) are resolved; that right-of-way acquisition occurs as scheduled; and that agreements with local municipalities and other planning organizations are obtained.

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